



President Joe Biden waves before boarding Air Force One at El Paso International Airport in El Paso, Texas, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, to travel to Mexico City, Mexico.

Associated Press

GOP requests intel 'damage assessment' of Biden documents

By ZEKE MILLER

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee has requested that the U.S. intelligence community conduct a "damage assessment" of potentially classified documents found in the Washington office space of President Joe Biden's former institute, Rep. Mike Turner sent the request Tuesday to Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines, saying that Biden's retention of the documents put him in "potential vio-

lation of laws protecting national security, including the Espionage Act and Presidential Records Act."

Irrespective of a federal review, the revelation that Biden potentially mishandled classified or presidential records could prove to be a political headache for the president, who called former President Donald Trump's decision to keep hundreds of such records at his private club in Florida "irresponsible."

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Almost full recovery of 2019 traffic numbers reached

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Bibi Arends, ex-president of Aruba Tivoli Club



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GOP requests intel 'damage assessment' of Biden documents

Continued from Front

Biden ignored shouted questions about the matter Tuesday during a bilateral meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Mexico.

Turner's request came a day after the White House confirmed that the Department of Justice was reviewing "a small number of documents with classified markings." The documents were discovered as Biden's personal attorneys were clearing out the offices of the Penn Biden Center, where the president kept an office after he left the vice presidency in 2017 until shortly before he launched his presidential campaign in 2019, the White House said.

"Those entrusted with access to classified information have a duty and an obligation to protect it," said Turner in a letter to Haines. "This issue demands a full and thorough review." Sen. Mark Warner, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, called for a briefing on the Biden documents.

"Our system of classification exists in order to protect our most important national security secrets, and we expect to be briefed on what happened both at Mar-a-Lago and at the Biden office as part of our



President Joe Biden speaks as he meets with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the InterContinental Presidente Mexico City hotel in Mexico City, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023.

Associated Press

constitutional oversight obligations," he said. "From what we know so far, the latter is about finding documents with markings, and turning them over, which is certainly different from a months-long effort to retain material actively being sought by the government. But again, that's why we need to be briefed."

The documents were found on Nov. 2, 2022, in a "locked closet" in the office, according to special counsel to the president Richard Sauber.

Sauber said the attorneys immediately alerted the White House Counsel's office, which notified the National Archives and Records Administration — which took custody of the documents the next day.

"Since that discovery, the President's personal at-

torneys have cooperated with the Archives and the Department of Justice in a process to ensure that any Obama-Biden Administration records are appropriately in the possession of the Archives," Sauber said. A person who is familiar with the matter but not authorized to discuss it publicly said Attorney General Merrick Garland asked U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois John Lausch to review the matter after the Archives referred the issue to the department. Lausch is one of the few U.S. attorneys to be held over from Trump's administration.

Trump weighed in Monday on his social media site, asking, "When is the FBI going to raid the many homes of Joe Biden, perhaps even the White House?"

Republicans have just taken control of the House of Representatives and are promising to launch widespread investigations of Biden's administration.

The revelation also may complicate the Justice Department's consideration of whether to bring charges against Trump, who is trying to win back the White House in 2024 and has repeatedly claimed the department's inquiry into of his own conduct amounted to "corruption."

The National Archives did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday. Spokespeople for Garland and Lausch declined to comment.

Rep. James Comer, the new GOP chairman of the House Oversight Committee, said Monday that the revelation raised questions about the Justice Department's handling of the Trump probe.

"Is the White House going to be raided tonight? Are they going to raid the Bidens?" he asked reporters. "This is further concern that there's a two-tier justice system within the DOJ with how they treat Republicans versus Democrats, certainly how they treat the former president versus the current president."

His Democratic counterpart, Rep. Jamie Raskin, said Biden's attorneys "appear to have taken imme-

diately and proper action."

"I have confidence that the attorney general took the appropriate steps to ensure the careful review of the circumstances surrounding the possession and discovery of these documents and make an impartial decision about any further action that may be needed," he added.

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, chair of the powerful House Judiciary Committee, said Monday that the American public deserved to know earlier about the classified documents.

"They knew about this a week before the election, maybe the American people should have known that," Jordan told reporters. "They certainly knew about the the raid on Mar-a-Lago 91 days before this election, but nice if on November 2, the country would have known that there were classified documents at the Biden Center."

Jordan is among House Republicans pushing for the creation of a "select subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal government" within the Judiciary Committee.

It wasn't immediately clear why the White House didn't disclose the discovery of the documents or the DOJ review sooner. CBS was first to report Monday on the discovery of the potentially classified documents. □



Workers remove the monument of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee on July 10, 2021, in Charlottesville, Va.

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)

— A Virginia judge dismissed an argument Monday that Charlottesville

violated an open government law with its 2021 vote to give a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee to

Judge tosses argument that Lee statue vote violated law

an African American heritage center that plans to melt it down and turn it into a new piece of public art. The Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation and the Ratcliffe Foundation are seeking an injunction to stop the statue's destruction and relaunch the bidding process. The two organizations' bids for the statue failed and the City Council voted to give the monument to the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, a local Black history museum.

A one-day bench trial is scheduled for Feb. 1.

An October gag order bars parties from disclosing the location of the statue, which was at the center of the deadly 2017 Unite the Right rally. However, attorney Richard Milnor clarified at Monday's hearing in Charlottesville Circuit Court that the statue that was taken down in July 2021 has not been melted down, just disassembled, The Daily Progress reported.

Judge Paul Peatross stood by his previous ruling that

the Virginia Procurement Act gives the plaintiffs the ability to question the bidding process. Peatross also rejected the city's argument that Virginia's amended war memorial law prohibits private parties from suing governments that remove monuments.

"What's the purpose of the statute if no one can challenge the actions?" Peatross asked Milnor. "Who can challenge?"

"No one," answered Milnor. "That's my point," said the judge. □

Feds propose 'student loan safety net' alongside forgiveness

By COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is moving forward with a proposal that would lower student debt payments for millions of Americans now and in the future, offering a new route to repay federal loans under far more generous terms.

President Joe Biden announced the repayment plan in August, but it was overshadowed by his sweeping plan to slash or eliminate student debt for 40 million Americans. Despite the low profile of the payment plan, however, some education experts see it as a more powerful tool to make college affordable, especially for those with lower incomes. Education Department officials on Tuesday called the new plan a "student loan safety net" that will prevent borrowers from getting overloaded with debt.

"Student debt has become a dream killer," Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said. "This is a promise to the American people that, at long last, we will fix a broken system and make student loans affordable." Biden, a Democrat, is moving forward with the repayment plan even as his one-time debt cancellation faces an uncertain fate before the Supreme Court. The White House has asked the court to uphold the plan and reject two legal challenges from conservative opponents.

The Biden administration submitted its brief last week, with oral arguments slated for Feb. 28.

The Education Department formally proposed the new repayment plan on Tuesday by publishing it in the Federal Register, starting a public comment period that often takes months to navigate.

If it's finalized, the proposal would give a major overhaul to income-driven repayment plans — one of several payment options offered by the federal government. The resulting plan would have lower monthly payments, an easier path

to forgiveness and a promise that unpaid interest will not be added to a borrower's loan balance.

The federal government now offers four types of income-driven plans, but the proposal would mostly phase out three of them while focusing on one simplified option, scaling back the confusing array of options borrowers now face. Under existing plans, monthly payments are capped at 10% of a borrower's discretionary income, and those earning less than \$20,400 a year aren't required to make payments. The new proposal would cap payments for undergraduate loans at 5% of borrowers' discretionary pay, cutting their bills in half, and require payments only for those who earn more than about \$30,000 a year.

As long as borrowers make their monthly payments, any unpaid interest would not be charged. The change is meant to prevent borrowers from having unpaid interest added to their loan balance, a practice that can cause debt to snowball even as borrowers make payments. Significantly, the proposal would also make it easier to get debt erased after making several years of payments.

Existing plans promise to cancel any remaining debt after 20 or 25 years of payments. The new plan would erase all remaining debt after 10 years for those who took out \$12,000 or less in loans. For every \$1,000 borrowed beyond that, a year would be added.

Typical graduates of a four-year university would save about \$2,000 a year compared with today's plans, the Biden administration says, while 85% of community college borrowers would be debt-free within 10 years.

Supporters see the proposal as a significant stride toward college affordability. Some say it's so generous that it approaches free community college — a campaign promise that Biden has pushed but

failed to deliver.

The Institute for College Access and Success, a non-profit organization that promotes college affordability, praised the proposal as a significant improvement over existing plans.

"The changes proposed today would provide meaningful financial relief to millions of borrowers and help shield students from debt that has not paid off, including those who start college but do not complete a degree," said Sameer Gadkaree, the group's president.

Opponents on the right blast the revamped plan as an unfair handout with a steep price tag. The Biden administration estimates the repayment plan would cost nearly \$138 billion over



President Joe Biden speaks about student loan debt forgiveness in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, on Aug. 24, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

the decade, and some critics have put it closer to \$200 billion.

Republican Rep. Virginia Foxx, chairwoman of the House Committee on Edu-

cation and the Workforce, said the proposal turns the federal loan program into "an untargeted grant with complete disregard for the taxpayers that fund it." □

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Feds outline new plan for inmates to pay victim restitution

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department is proposing changes to how it runs federal prisoners' deposit accounts in an effort to make sure victims are paid restitution, including from some high-profile inmates with large balances. The new rule was published in the federal register Tuesday. It would automatically put 75% of money sent or donated to inmates toward victim restitution. The program would be voluntary, but prisoners would have to participate in order to get credit under the First Step Act for early release from prison or into a community facility. The move comes as the Justice Department has faced increased scrutiny after revelations that several high-profile inmates had kept large sums of money in their prison accounts but had only made minimal payments to their victims. The accounts are generally used for inmates to buy things like food, personal hygiene products and religious items, but they have at times been used for suspicious or illegal activity, or



The seal for the Federal Bureau of Prisons is seen at Federal Bureau of Prisons headquarters in Washington, Oct. 24, 2022.

by inmates to shield themselves from paying debts. For example, Larry Nassar, the former USA Gymnastics national team doctor convicted of sexually assaulting athletes, had thousands of dollars in his prison account even as he owed tens of thousands to his victims, prosecutors said in court documents filed in August 2021. Nassar had by then

paid only about \$100 per year, the minimum requirement, since he first entered the federal prison system in 2017, the Washington Post first reported. A judge later ordered him to pay more toward his restitution. Funds were also seized from singer R. Kelly's prison account to go to a restitution fund for his victims in a decades-long scheme to use

his fame to sexually abuse young fans. Inmates are allowed to keep large sums of money in their accounts, as long as they're not dodging ordered debts like child support, alimony or restitution. The new percentage system would "more equitably account for each inmate's specific obligations and resources while leaving the

inmate with some funds to spend within the institution and/or save for re-entry purposes," Bureau of Prisons Director Colette Peters wrote in the proposed change. Few inmates have such high-dollar accounts, though, and criminal-justice reform advocates worry that the changes could disproportionately affect those who rely on small commissary accounts behind bars and for rebuilding their lives after release. "There's a handful of bad actors, but this isn't going to target them, it's going to punish all the other guys," said Kevin Ring, the president of the criminal justice advocacy group FAMM. The Bureau of Prisons has said about .01% of inmates carry more than \$100,000 in their accounts. The Justice Department considered a system that would divert larger percentages from higher-value accounts, but eventually decided the Bureau of Prisons wasn't equipped to implement it in a completely fair way, though they may consider other ways to divert more from larger balances. □

Elevated U.S. traffic deaths slipped in 1st 9 months of 2022

By TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The number of traffic deaths on U.S. roadways fell slightly during the first nine months of 2022, but pedestrian and cyclist deaths continued to rise. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 31,785 people were killed in crashes from January through September last year, down 0.2% from the same period of 2021. The agency also estimates that fatalities dropped slightly in the third quarter of the year, the second straight quarterly decline after seven quarters of year-over-year increases. Agency Acting Administrator Ann Carlson says in a prepared statement Monday that there's still more

work to do to address a crisis on the nation's roads. She's urging people to drive safely and watch out for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. The Governors Highway Safety Association, a group

of state traffic safety officials, said the reduction in deaths is welcome, but it follows an unprecedented two-year surge in roadway deaths and dangerous driving. The number of deaths is down by only 65 from January through Sep-

tember. "Today's news is a small step forward for safer roads," the group said, blaming the spike in the 2020 and 2021 on unsafe driver behavior including speeding, impaired and distracted driving and lack of seat belt use. Fatalities began to rise two years ago when roads were largely empty due to stay-at-home orders in many states. With less traffic, speeds increased as did reckless and impaired driving, leading to a record spike in deaths last year, authorities have said. Many people weren't wearing seat belts, the government said. NHTSA says its estimates typically are close to actual numbers. Final figures for 2022 won't be released until later.

NHTSA said that Americans continue to drive more than during the height of the pandemic, with preliminary Federal Highway Administration data showing a 1.6% increase in vehicle miles traveled in the first nine months of last year. As a result, the estimated fatality rate for the period fell to 1.3 deaths per 100 million miles traveled, compared with 1.32 a year earlier. The number of cyclists killed rose 8% through September of last year, the agency estimated, while motorcyclist deaths rose 5% and pedestrian deaths were up 2%. Fatalities on rural interstates rose 12% during the first nine months of 2022, and crashes involving at least one large truck were up 10%, according to NHTSA estimates. □



Drivers work their way out of Dallas during rush hour, July 1, 2016.

Associated Press

Despite record cocaine seizures, drug cartels roil Europe

By RAF CASERT

Associated Press

ANTWERP, Belgium (AP) —

Each tiny plastic package was barely the size of a fingernail and weighed all of 0.2 grams. Still, the bags of white powder police seized in a Brussels cellar were yet another indication that a surge in cocaine and crack supply is hitting Europe hard.

And, with it, comes unprecedented drug violence in Belgium and the Netherlands, whose ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam have proven the main gateway for Latin American cocaine cartels into the continent.

In Belgium, the justice minister is forced to live in a safe-house, out of reach of drug gangs.

In the Netherlands, killings hit ever more prominent people and there are suspicions that the reason the heir to the Dutch throne had to quit her student life and return home was also linked to threats from drug lords.

"We almost have to see it as a war," said Aukje de Vries, the Dutch State Secretary for customs.

Officials in Belgium's northern port of Antwerp on Tuesday announced yet another annual record in cocaine seizures last year: 110 tons, 23% up compared to 2021 and more



Chief police inspector of the Brussels Morolles neighbourhood, Kris Verborgh shows a package of crack cocaine in Brussels, Monday, Jan. 9, 2023.

Associated Press

than twice the amount confiscated five years ago. "It astounded us," said Belgian Finance Minister Vincent Van Peteghem. "It also means the drugs that are entering Europe (undetected) through our ports are also rising. And that, of course, has a huge impact," he told The Associated Press.

Because with cocaine comes not only addiction, decay and death, but also violence and gang warfare.

In the past three years Antwerp has suffered dozens of

grenade attacks, fires and small bombs often linked to gangs trying to carve up the thriving cocaine trade. On Monday evening, the city better known for painter Peter-Paul Rubens and a famed fashion school saw the fatal shooting of a child, likely an unwitting victim of the drug war.

"A girl of barely 11 that obviously has nothing to do with crime gangs is now the victim of narco terror that is turning ever more ruthless," said Antwerp Prosecutor Franky De Keyzer.

The situation in Belgium has

become so bad that even Justice Minister Vincent Van Quickenborne, is living in hiding after evidence emerged drugs gangs might be seeking to kidnap him, or worse.

In the Netherlands too, home to the global port of Rotterdam, murder and intimidation have become increasingly common as drug lords go to extreme lengths to protect their cut of the multibillion euro (dollar) market.

And 50 tons of cocaine were seized there last year which, combined with An-

twerp, made for another record year.

Among high-profile murder victims in the Netherlands in recent years were a lawyer representing a witness in a drug gangsters' trial and crime reporter Peter R. de Vries, who was a confidant to the same witness.

Unspecified threats to the heir to the Dutch throne, Princess Amalia, forced her last year to abandon student life in Amsterdam and return home. Security reportedly also has been beefed up around Prime Minister Mark Rutte. In both cases, it's suspected that drugs-related crime is a factor.

And in places like Brussels, where the violence might be less spectacular, cocaine and crack are starting to have a chilling effect in areas like the Marolles, a neighborhood so folksy quaint it figured in Tintin's cartoon adventures.

The chief police inspector for the neighborhood, Kris Verborgh, said South American cocaine "seems to be or seems to have become the new normal."

Verborgh says the cost of the base product in Colombia amounts to some 500 euros (\$536) a kilogram.

A kilogram of the finished product can turn into some 70,000 euros on Belgium's streets. □

Lebanese Hezbollah condemns Charlie Hebdo cartoons in France



A Hezbollah supporter holds up a picture of the leader of Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, during a ceremony to mark the third anniversary of the assassination of Iran's Quds force General Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad, in the southern Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh, Lebanon, on Jan. 3, 2023.

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group on Tuesday condemned the cartoons published recently by the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo that mocked Iran's ruling clerics and urged France to punish the publication. The Iran-backed Hezbollah said the offensive caricatures were an "ugly act by the magazine" that targeted Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, revered as the spiritual leader for tens of millions of pious Shiites throughout the world, including in Lebanon.

There was no immediate

comment from France.

Charlie Hebdo has a long history of publishing vulgar cartoons mocking Islamists, which critics say are deeply insulting to Muslims. Two French-born al-Qaida extremists attacked the newspaper's office in 2015, killing 12 cartoonists, and it has been the target of other attacks over the years.

Its latest issue features the winners of a recent cartoon contest in which entrants were asked to draw the most offensive caricatures of Khamenei. The contest was billed as a show of support for the monthslong anti-government protests

rocking Iran.

One of the finalists depicts a turbaned cleric reaching for a hangman's noose as he drowns in blood, while another shows Khamenei clinging to a giant throne above the raised fists of protesters. Others depict more vulgar and sexually explicit scenes.

"We call upon the French government to take decisive measures to punish those behind the act for attacking dignitaries of a whole nation," Hezbollah said in a statement. "The French government ... should not be a partner in this offense." □

Armenia cancels military drills, widening rift with Moscow

By AVET DEMOURIAN

Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) —

The prime minister of Armenia said Tuesday that his country has refused to host military drills planned by a Russia-dominated security pact, an announcement that reflected the Armenian government's growing tensions with Moscow.

Nikol Pashinyan has repeatedly criticized Russian peacekeepers for failure to secure free transit along a corridor linking Armenia and the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh that Azerbaijani activists have blocked since last month.

Speaking at a news conference Tuesday, Pashinyan said that Armenia considers the military exercise the Moscow-dominated Collective Security Treaty Organization planned for later this year "inappropriate in the current situation." "At least this year, these drills won't take place," he said. Pashinyan's move followed his refusal in the fall to sign a conclusive document from a meeting of the leaders of CSTO member nations in Yerevan, Armenia's capital.

Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Yerevan since a



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan speaks during a news conference in Yerevan, Armenia, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023.

Associated Press

separatist war there ended in 1994. That conflict left not only Nagorno-Karabakh itself but large chunks of surrounding lands in Armenian hands. In 44 days of heavy fighting that began in September 2020, the Azerbaijani military routed Armenian forces, forcing Yerevan to accept a Russia-brokered peace deal that saw the return to Azerbaijan of a significant part of Nagorno-Karabakh. The agreement also required Armenia to hand over swaths of land it held out-

side the separatist region. Lachin province, which lies between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, was the last of the three areas on the rim of Nagorno-Karabakh that Armenian forces surrendered in December 2020. Russia deployed nearly 2,000 peacekeepers for at least five years to ensure safe transit across the region, to monitor the peace deal and to help refugees return.

But travel across the Lachin corridor has been blocked since Dec. 12 by Azerbaijani

activists, who demanded access to what Azerbaijan has described as unlawful mining sites in Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenian authorities have described the blockade as part of efforts by Azerbaijan to extend its control over the region and urged the Russian peacekeepers to unblock the road.

The Azerbaijani move has left Russia in a precarious position. Armenia hosts a Russian military base, and Moscow has been the country's top ally and spon-

sor. But the Kremlin also has sought to maintain warm ties with oil-rich Azerbaijan. Western sanctions over the Russian invasion of Ukraine have made Russia increasingly dependent on Azerbaijan's main ally, Turkey. With its attention focused on the fighting in Ukraine, Russia has taken a wait-and-see attitude on the Lachin corridor blockade, angering Armenia.

He noted that the blockade of the Lachin corridor is intended to "break the will of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh," adding that Armenia will also seek support from the U.S. and the European Union to help ease the tensions with Azerbaijan. After the Russian peacekeepers' five-year mandate is over, Armenia could invite U.N. peacekeepers to come in "if Russia fails to fulfill its function to ensure security for the population of Nagorno-Karabakh," Pashinyan said. The Russia-brokered 2020 peace deal also called for the creation of a transportation link between Azerbaijani and its Nakchivan exclave via Armenian territory. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev accused Armenia on Tuesday of renegeing on its promise to provide such a transit corridor. □

U.S. Navy says it seized Iran assault rifles bound for Yemen

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

The U.S. Navy seized over 2,100 assault rifles from a ship in the Gulf of Oman it believes came from Iran and were bound for Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, a Navy spokesman said Tuesday. It was the latest capture of weapons allegedly heading to the Arab world's poorest country.

The seizure last Friday happened after a team from the USS Chinook, a Cyclone-class coastal patrol boat, boarded a traditional wooden sailing vessel known as a dhow.

They discovered the Kalashnikov-style rifles individually wrapped in green tarps aboard the ship, said

Cmdr. Timothy Hawkins, a spokesman for the Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet. Experts examining pho-



In this photo release by the U.S. Navy, hundreds of AK-47 assault rifles sit on the flight deck of the guided-missile destroyer USS The Sullivans during an inventory process, Jan. 7, 2023.

Associated Press

tos released by the Navy later said the weapons appeared to be Chinese-made T-56 rifles and Russian-made Molot AKS20Us. Type 56 rifles have been found in previously seized weapons caches. Similar green tarping also has been used.

The Chinook, along with the patrol boat USS Monsoon and the guided missile destroyer USS The Sullivans, took possession of the weapons. They resembled other assault rifles previously seized by the Navy, suspected to be from Iran and heading to Yemen.

"When we intercepted the vessel, it was on a route

historically used to traffic illicit cargo to the Houthis in Yemen," Hawkins told The Associated Press. "The Yemeni crew corroborated the origin."

The Yemeni crew, Hawkins added, will be repatriated back to a government-controlled part of Yemen.

A United Nations arms embargo has prohibited weapons transfers to the Houthis since 2014, when Yemen's civil war erupted. Iran has long denied arming the Houthis even as it has been transferring rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, missiles and other weaponry to the Yemeni militia using sea routes. □

Bibi Arends, ex-president of Aruba Tivoli Club

“Hope for an old-style Carnival, full of creativity and culture”

Maximiliano Francisco Arends, better known as Bibi Arends, was involved in Aruba's Carnival from a young age. He was also the president of Club Tivoli, which was located in Whilhelminastraat during the 50s and 60s.

In a special interview with our reporter, Arends mentioned that the house in which he was born was next to the Aruba Tivoli Club, a club which was established in 1921 as Aruba Dance Club and later changed its name, got a new building – and years later was dismantled.

From a young age, before the World War II, Arends would see that there was a lot of activity at the Aruba Tivoli Club because a lot of the members travelled to Europe and would bring back the Venice-style of Carnival, “which is very luxurious and used a lot of masks, which was ideal back then because a lot of the members belonged to the elite in the community as doctors and lawyers, and by wearing the mask they would not be recognized and could just enjoy with everyone else”, he said.

With the passing of time, the club became bigger, but the war paralyzed everything. And when things picked back up, people went on the streets mainly only with the queens on a convertible. After a while, more clubs like Caribe Club, Watapana Club and Club Viceroy joined and they began using cars and



trucks. “This was more like a Queen parade in convertible cars in 1946, and it scaled up with music trucks with the old Carnival song of Calipso, composed by Rufo Wever and Padu del Caribe – composers of Aruba's national anthem, Aruba Dushi Tera – and interpreted by Edwin Zichem. Back then the song was played by various bands on the trucks.”

As more people joined the parades became bigger. Around 1954, the president of Tivoli realized that there were a lot of carnival celebrations around Aruba, like steelband which began in

San Nicolas, and the Chinese club which also began participating in carnival in San Nicolas.

Because of this, Arends called for all clubs to come together and agree to organize a general carnival with the idea of celebrating carnival in Oranjestad and San Nicolas.

“Back then carnival was very different, there was a lot more coming together of the groups, organizations and families that worked on carnival items like headpieces, would sew all costumes and everything was almost free because people would come together. It was like a cultural-social event, where one would come with a couple of cases of beer, another with a cake, and people were happy. This doesn't exist anymore,” Arends commented.

Tivoli started with various things like Fakkeloptocht and Miss Carnival back then. And in 1980, the organization in charge of the general carnival, Central Commission of Carnival of Aruba (CCCA), which later became the Foundation of Aruba's Carnival (SAC), was asked to organize a carnival at night, “because Tivoli's people would see the beautiful carnival lights at Disney World Orlando and wanted to introduce it in Aruba”, according to Arends.

In 1981, Tivoli was to celebrate its 60th anniversary, and they agreed to organize the parade at night, something that back then was dangerous and not allowed by police. But it went through and became such a success that for the second time, people were so happy with Lighting Parade that they forced it to include steelband, super dancers, brass band and groups from abroad.

Back then, to be part of a carnival parade one had to pay 100 florins, then it



went to 75 florins and ended at 50 florins. The groups started getting big with people that were not members, and this resulted in a massive participation as it is now. And this caused the closure of Club Tivoli, since they didn't have funds anymore, and hotels were offering other entertainment activities.

“At the change of the century a new situation grew in Aruba and the world with scientific progress and technology. People's character changed and things started becoming more commercial, and carnival became more about money. Carnival became very expensive these years, you need to pay at least 12,000 florins for the band alone and it's getting worse. With all respect to today's carnival, but you go online, you find a group, you register on your computer, you receive your drinks ticket and you go dance”, he explained.

Since the year 2000, according to Arends, the luxury, beauty and greatness of carnival began decreasing – less luxury, less fantasy and creativity. It became more commercial.

He said that he lived and

enjoyed the carnivals of yesteryear, up until 2009. “I am afraid that at some point carnival will collapse and break itself because you cannot afford it. Situation is improving after the pandemic, it's true, but the value of money is decreasing and you cannot purchase everything necessary nowadays for carnival.”

The good news that Arends has been observing the last few years is that organizations, like hotel personnel or private companies, began doing carnival the old style. “They get together after work, they make their carnival stuff and have a party before the big parade. Even the neighborhood centers are developing, like the one at Noord that has the Sunset Parade with a beautiful steelband and everything handmade, expressing Aruba's culture and tradition.

He sees this positively. “If those are not paid, we recreate and reactivate our carnival in the style of the old days, which was very creative, very social and very cultural”, he said.

Images from Facebook page: Historia di Aruba -Toen en NU. □



Bowls Noodle Bar invites you to a Happy Hour with a unique flavor



Bowls Noodle Bar recently opened at their new location at The Village, near the High Rise Hotels. To celebrate, they are launching their new Happy Hour from 9pm to 11pm every day.

gredients. They also cater to vegetarians and vegans, with various options on the menu like tofu mushroom soup, vegetable gyoza, wonton, and fresh kimchi fermented at the restaurant.

The wok concept also allows you to create your own unique dish, choosing your base, protein, vegetables and sauce.

Origin

The founders of Bowls Noodle Bar, Dexter Moreno and his partner Lai, opened their first location on Curaçao. They traveled to Japan to study Japanese Cuisine, and they fell in love with Japanese soup. Lai's parents are Chinese, and this is the start of the Asian-fusion flavors that are both surprising and delectable, combining Japanese, Chinese and even some Korean cuisine. Chef Warren was trained in these traditional flavors by the founders themselves.

They came to Aruba where Dexter approached some ex-colleagues in the industry to open a location on the island, and with a local team, opened Bowls Noodle Bar Aruba with a more extensive menu.

Opening hours are Monday to Thursday 5pm – 11:30pm; Friday and Saturday 5pm – 12pm; and Sunday 5pm – 11:30pm. Come visit for great atmosphere, delicious flavors, and a Happy Hour to remember!



Before the pandemic, Bowls Noodle Bar opened at the Hyatt by the airport, and was in the process of opening a second location at The Village when the pandemic hit. Due to the consequences of the pandemic, they decided to close the restaurant by the airport and open their new location at The Village. Their new location has been open for about six months to great results.

At The Village, night time is the best time. This is why they are now offering a daily Happy Hour, from 9pm to 11pm. It includes \$3 beer and \$5 cocktails.

Their cocktails are made in-house with a unique fusion of Asian flavors, for example, the popular purple Ube Mojito, with the flavor of traditional Ube, a Japanese dessert; the Blue Samurai with ginger flavor; and the refreshing Fruity Blossoms, with a flavor encompassing the Sakura, the famous Japanese Cherry Blossoms. You can try all these for only \$5 each during Happy Hour.

Fusion is at the core of the unique flavors of Bowls Noodle Bar, and this is expressed beautifully in their traditional Japanese soups. They are the only restaurant in Aruba that has most of the noodles traditionally used, Udon, Ramen, and Rice noodles. Ramen noodles, served fresh, are a surprising flavor for those who are used to dried ramen noodles. They also have Jasmine rice for the rice bowls.

Their authentic soups are the highlight and star. Chef Warren explains that there are four main components to the soup: the broth, the noodles, tare, and the oil, and these are very important for the traditional Japanese soups. At Bowls Noodle Bar, they have a wide variety of flavors to cater to every taste, like the famous Pork Chashu. It comes with fresh ramen noodles, and it's the pride of Bowls Noodle Bar. Chef Warren says that the broth for this soup takes two to three days to make, and is made in-house, with fresh and delicious in-



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Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tum-



bles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass.

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.



It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.



Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A

few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ☐

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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Aruba as a cultural destination

Episode CLXXXVIII -188

Through Island Insight, Etnia Nativa shares native cultural awareness, educates, safeguards Aruba's heritage, and encourages readers to experiment with an island guardian state of mind. During this episode, we want to raise awareness about the importance of guiding our visitors to enjoy this tiny destination by learning about our customs, traditions, and concerns so that they help us preserve "our beloved rock" for future generations.

The goal of education is to raise awareness about our current situation in order to conserve the fragile insular ecosystem. As Arubans, we wonder what will happen to our natural landscape, geological aspects, traditions, history, and cultural way of life that we inherited from our Euro-indigenous ancestors, as our island is our home, which has slowly been swallowed up by more than just exploitation. For all of this, when we see our stories told to the rest of the world, we are proud of where we were born or live because our culture and heritage enrich our community while benefiting our economy.

As pioneers of cultural tourism, we at Etnia Nativa are convinced of the need for culture to become a fundamental pillar of tourism, which is why our goal of influencing native awareness begins each morning by educating participants through an authentically local awareness experience. All this happens on a private area of 880 m2 and within the confines of a small museum/home that houses remote cultural knowledge as well as native and imported plants, wild animals, and endangered bird species with which visitors can interact, giving them the opportunity to enjoy an experience that will accompany them back home.

In recent years, it has clearly become a worldwide phenomenon that more and more people travel to experience new cultures, returning with this trend to a practice widely used during medieval times and known as "the Grand Tour," today recognized as a pioneer in cultural tourism, which was considered in its



time an essential part of the education of every gentleman.

Considering this growing trend, Aruba should strengthen the cultural, social, and economic aspects of tourism in order to provide more opportunities for visitors to learn about our diverse lifestyles, customs, traditions, festivals, history, architecture, and monuments, as well as those who want to eat traditional foods, participate in live experiences, and acquire native hand-made souvenirs.

As locals, we must encourage our visitors to participate in artistic activities and events and encourage them to take back inspiring works by a local artist, but fundamentally educate them and propose that they connect online with our cultural native blog "Island-Insight," where they will have relevant information and get to know about our

concerns and so contribute to a sustainable environment.

Tourism is our main and largest industry, while artists and cultural communities contribute to the quality of life not only in Aruba but throughout the world!

As a cultural and museum professional, Etnia Nativa specializes in the practice of providing historical and cultural experiences to learn about Aruba's heritage in a fun and educational way, as Aruba has always been a place rich in culture and heritage.

Now if you love Aruba and are intrigued by its origins and cultural heritage, we encourage you to do something different outside the tourist grid. Become one of the exclusive visitors to Etnia Nativa, a private residential setting where you will be able to touch and be touched by authentic Aruba, an assemblage of native art, archaic as well as archaeological artifacts, lithic tools, colonial furniture, and other items. Get inside a recycled environment full of peace and relaxation, knowledge, and information.

Anthony, our acclaimed columnist, local artist, and island expert, has lived at Etnia Nativa since 1994, your guide and lecturer at this resplendent home. This is the only place to recreate and be introduced to an authentic glimpse into Aruba's native culture. Something completely different for a change—a contemporary native experience!

Appointment is required at +297 592 2702 or etnianativa03@gmail.com



AUA Airport – Passenger Traffic Review 2022

Almost full recovery of 2019 traffic numbers reached



Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) is happy to report the AUA Airport's passenger traffic performance for the year 2022; passenger flow numbers increased considerably in the last three quarters of the year showing excellent recovery rates versus the same period in 2019.

The total amount of revenue generating passengers (departing passengers) handled in 2022 was recorded at 1,207,587 which represents a recovery of 95% versus 2019. The departing passenger number in 2022 increased with 38% when comparing this to 2021.

Recovery per quarter in 2022

For each quarter in 2022 the passenger traffic numbers per market performed as follows:

During the first quarter of 2022, 77% of departing passengers were recovered versus the year 2019. The remaining quarters of 2022 showed

a recovery versus the same period in 2019 of respectively 101%, 102% and 103%.

Diversifying the US and NON-US markets further in 2022

Whilst the US Market represented a total of 81% of the total departing passengers in 2021, this decreased to 75% at the end of 2022. This is in line with the strategy set forth by AUA airport to diversify the markets served from and to AUA airport as much as possible. This resulted in an increase in the market share of the NON-US Market from 19% in 2021 to 25% in 2022.

New routes and additional frequencies 2022

In the year 2022 several airlines either started new operations to AUA Airport or amped up their frequencies. Airlines like Jet Air Caribbean and Aracet commenced operations with direct service out of Curacao and Santo Domingo with

twice weekly service. Southwest started their new route with direct operations out of Orlando in the USA and Wingo commenced its successful operations out of Medellin Colombia and added frequencies to and from Bogota in Colombia. Sunclass Airlines restarted their operations out of Stockholm, and Air Canada restarted their operations out of Toronto Canada.

Flight departure and load factors 2022

The total amount of aircraft movements for 2022 stands at 11,597 which is 22% more than the amount of flight departures reported in 2021 and a recovery of 87% versus the number of movements in 2019 for departing flights. An average load factor of 85% was reported in 2019 and for 2022 an average load factor of 83% was reached.

Outlook 2023

For the year 2023 the AUA airport is

expecting to receive approximately 13% more compared to 2022. The NON-US market share is expected to increase further in the year 2023 with new airlift opportunities being explored from those markets. A new route out of Europe with British Airways will be launched in March of 2023 and more new opportunities are being explored and developed stemming from the Latin American market. AUA Airport is confident that the year 2023 will be another successful year for the number of passengers and aircraft movements that will be handled.

About AUA Airport

AUA Airport is one of the busiest airports in the Caribbean region, with 24 different airlines operating into Aruba contributing to processing over 2.4 million passengers per year and providing air service to 26 destinations worldwide. AUA Airport is operationally solid where over 95% of all visitors are leisure guests: 77% from the United States & Canada, 10% from Latin America, 8% from Europe, and 4% from Dutch Caribbean, year to date, December 2022. AUA Airport attributes this to the island's stable economic and political climate, hospitable and multilingual population, and safe environment. AUA Airport undergoes continuous upgrades to maintain its position as one of the region's most innovative airports.

Learn more about what's happening at AUA Airport by visiting www.airportaruba.com and connect with AUA Airport on [Twitter.com/Aruba_Airport](https://twitter.com/Aruba_Airport), [Facebook.com/ArubaAirport](https://facebook.com/ArubaAirport), [Instagram.com/arubaairport/](https://instagram.com/arubaairport/) and [Linkedin.com/ArubaAirport](https://linkedin.com/ArubaAirport).



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 "Olympia"

1 "Waterloo" painter group

5 Robe 40 Pub feature brews

9 Fixes, 41 Water as holey source socks

11 Mercutio's friend

12 Deceive lines

13 Cheering loudly

14 — bind name

15 Players at the plate

17 Improves worker

19 Small worker

20 Brief fellow

21 Young fellow

22 Con- cerning

24 Passing craze

26 Left on a liner

29 Middle- earth baddie

30 Old- fashioned ingredient

32 Tops, as toast

34 Boar's mate

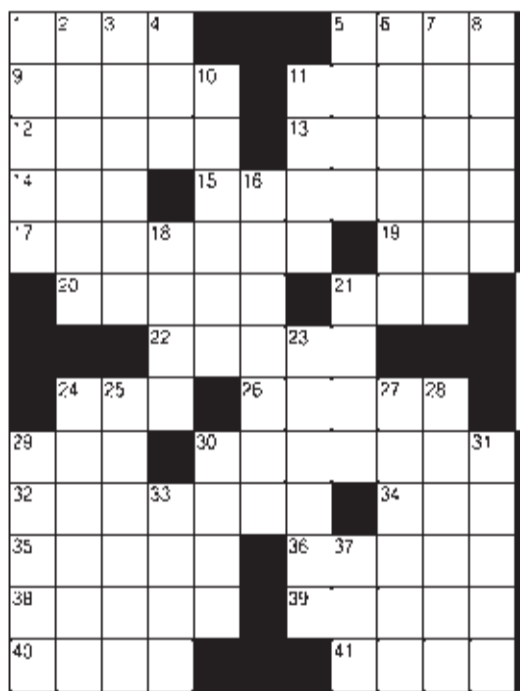
35 Old market

36 Blown away



Yesterday's answer

DOWN
1 Make up
2 Johnson's middle
3 Exhalation
4 Small worker
5 Classify
6 One-celled organism
7 Blackened
8 Neigh sayer
10 Gets serious opener
11 "Dog-gone!" backup
16 Craft show's cousin
18 Warty critter
21 Easy run
23 Chooses to partici- pate
24 Thrifty
25 Play
27 Make a copy, say
28 Mason's tool
29 44th president
30 Trounce
31 Expand
33 "— bien!"
37 At present



1-11

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

I-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

X R F S Q H I J L Q E Q H

W B O W F S S Q R I Q F

Y H B Y Q M O . — S Q D D E Y W B I Q F

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU KNOW HOW I ALWAYS DREAD THE WHOLE YEAR? WELL, THIS TIME I'M ONLY GOING TO DREAD ONE DAY AT A TIME. CHARLIE BROWN

TikTok boss meets European officials as scrutiny intensifies

By KELVIN CHAN

AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — TikTok's CEO met Tuesday with European Union officials about strict new digital regulations in the 27-nation bloc as the Chinese-owned social media app faces growing scrutiny from Western authorities over data privacy, cybersecurity and misinformation. In meetings in Brussels, Shou Zi Chew and four officials from the EU's executive Commission discussed concerns ranging from child safety to investigations into user data flowing to China, according to European readouts from two of the meetings and tweets from a third.

TikTok is wildly popular with young people but its Chinese ownership has raised fears that Beijing could use it to scoop up user data or push pro-China narratives or misinformation. □

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Spielberg, 'Top Gun' feted by National Board of Review

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The prize for best film of the year at the National Board of Review Awards went to "Top Gun: Maverick." Martin McDonagh's "The Banshees of Inisherin" took home the most trophies. But the night belonged to its best-director honoree, Steven Spielberg, and the parade of tributes paid to the 76-year-old filmmaker.

So effusive was the praise for Spielberg that Colin Farrell, there to accept the award for best actor for his performance in "The Banshees of Inisherin," said the experience of first watching "E.T." was the most euphoric of his life, ranking it even above the births of his two children.

"I'm glad this isn't televised," said Farrell.

Despite the lack of a broadcast from Cipriani's 42 Street in midtown Manhattan, the National Board of Review Awards have long been a regular and starry stop in Hollywood's awards season. This year's ceremony, hosted Sunday for the seventh time by Willie Geist, came right in the thick of a battery of big dates on the Oscar calendar. The Golden Globes are Tuesday, the Screen Actor Guild nominations are Wednesday and voting for the Academy Awards starts Thursday.

That meant that the NBR Awards, put on by a long-running group of film enthusiasts, was a chance to stoke buzz and polish acceptance speeches. The National Board of Review makes it easier, too, by announcing winners in advance and pairing each with a lavish introduction from a collaborator or friend. Spielberg, who won best director for his movie-memoir "The Fabelmans," was introduced by "West Side Story" star Ariana DeBose.

DeBose recalled being in a nail salon when "Steven (expletive) Spielberg" called to ask if she would join the cast.

"What I remember most about that moment, aside



Best director honoree Steven Spielberg, left, and best actress honoree Michelle Yeoh attend the National Board of Review Awards Gala at Cipriani 42nd Street on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, in New York.

from the experience of realizing that blood was rushing to my head and to my feet simultaneously, was thinking: Wow, what a gentlemanly, respectful, generous call that that was to make," DeBose said. "To ask someone to join you in an adventure."

Gabriel LaBelle, who plays a fictionalized version of young Spielberg in "The Fabelmans" and was honored for breakthrough performance along with Danielle Deadwyler of "Till," similarly described the life-changing nature of a call from Spielberg.

"I feel like I'm in debt, like I owe you, like I owe you my first born child or something," LaBelle said, still in apparent disbelief at his turn of fate.

"I don't know how I'll ever pay you back."

When Spielberg took the stage, the crowd rose in a standing ovation.

"My whole career in all the films I've directed my job, as I have seen it is as the accompanist and the conductor to whoever or whatever should be the center of your attention,"

he said. "But when it came time for me to sit down with Tony Kushner to explore the possibilities of a story that became 'The Fabelmans,' I realized for the first time that I couldn't take cover behind a mothership or a T-Rex or a big mechanical shark that never worked." Much has been made about "The Fabelmans" being Spielberg's most personal film, a classification he didn't dispute. Though he noted that every movie, in any genre, can be personal to a director, Spielberg said making his latest "was like moving back in with my parents and my sisters."

"You say you can't go home again? Oh, no. That's wrong. You can go home again," he said.

Though Spielberg is renowned as a hit-maker, "The Fabelmans" has struggled to ignite at the box office with just \$15.1 million worldwide, sapping some of its Oscar momentum.

Meanwhile, the awards hopes for a pair of theatrical successes "Top Gun: Maverick" and "Everything Everywhere All at Once"

have risen. "Top Gun" star Tom Cruise didn't attend Sunday, but producer Jerry Bruckheimer applauded him while accepting for best film.

"Simply put: He's a force of nature," Bruckheimer said. "A man with one goal: to entertain audiences."

After being introduced by her "Crazy Rich Asians" co-star Awkwafina, "Everything Everywhere All at Once" star Michelle Yeoh accepted the award for best actress. The Malaysian-born Yeoh noted she was the first Asian to win the award in nearly five decades, something that caused her to reflect on her journey from Hong Kong to Hollywood.

"One day Hollywood did come calling. It was an absolute dream come true. We all wanted to go to Hollywood — until I got there," Yeoh said. "Suddenly, I was a minority. I mean, how did that happen? There are more of me than you! I was typecast. I didn't see faces like mine on the screen. I met with people who didn't know where Korea and China and Japan

were."

Best supporting actress went to Janelle Monáe for the whodunit sequel "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery." Her introduction came from Benoit Blanc, himself: Daniel Craig. "Are you kidding me?" Monáe exclaimed. "You guys got (expletive) James Bond?"

"When Janelle floats, when she glides into a room, the chemicals in the air change," Craig said of his "Glass Onion" co-star. "When I had the privilege of working with her, every day she lifted me up."

Brendan Gleeson, who stars opposite Farrell in "The Banshees of Inisherin," wasn't there to accept his award for best supporting actor, though Farrell read a letter from him.

Gleeson remarked on the success of Martin McDonagh's movie: "Happy days for a sad film."

McDonagh was also honored with the award for best original screenplay. Oscar Isaac, who stars in the playwright's next film, introduced McDonagh by recalling his first meeting with him at a London pub, an encounter that ended in the two sharing mushrooms. Once he reached the stage, McDonagh thanked Isaac "for revealing only one of my drug preferences."

McDonagh then made one of the night's most pointed remarks, applauding his film's distributor, Searchlight Pictures, for giving him no notes on the screenplay: "Which is probably why I'm up here tonight." □

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Associated Press

AP source: Correa reaches \$200M, 6-year deal with Twins

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

Carlos Correa reversed course for a second time, agreeing Tuesday to a \$200 million, six-year contract that keeps him with the Minnesota Twins after failing to complete deals with the New York Mets and San Francisco Giants, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The agreement for the All-Star shortstop could be worth \$270 million over 10 seasons if Correa remains healthy. The contract is subject to a successful physical, the person said, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity because the agreement was not announced. Correa was in the Minneapolis area on Tuesday for the physical, the person said.

Correa agreed Dec. 13 to a \$350 million, 13-year contract with the Giants, who scheduled a news conference a week later to announce the deal, then called off the announcement hours before it was set to begin over concerns with a right ankle injury Correa sustained in 2014.

Correa agreed that night to a \$315 million, 12-year deal with the Mets, who also had concerns about the ankle after a Dec. 22 physical and held off finalizing the agreement while



Minnesota Twins' Carlos Correa reacts while batting during the first inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

attempting to negotiate protections.

His Twins agreement calls for an \$8 million signing bonus, half payable next month and half in February 2024, and salaries of \$32 million in each of the first two seasons, \$36 million in 2025, \$31.5 million in 2026, \$30.5 million in 2027 and \$30 million in 2028.

Minnesota's deal includes options for \$25 million in 2029, \$20 million in 2030, \$15 million in 2031 and \$10 million in 2032, each becoming guaranteed if Correa has 502 or more plate

appearances in the previous season. The deal could be worth \$225 million over seven seasons, \$245 million over eight years and \$260 million over nine seasons.

Correa's options also could be triggered by a top-five finish in MVP voting, a Silver Slugger award or World Series or League Championship Series MVP.

After the physical, the Mets were willing to guarantee \$157.5 million over six seasons, the person said.

While the guaranteed money kept decreasing in each successive agree-

ment, the average annual value increased from \$26.9 million with San Francisco to \$33.3 million with Minnesota. New York's deal originally would have guaranteed \$210 million in the first eight seasons.

Correa left Houston and joined the Twins last offseason for a \$105.3 million, three-year deal that included opt-outs after each season. He pulled out of the deal after making \$35.1 million in 2022 to chase a longer-term contract.

Correa's agent, Scott Boras, maintained last month

the player's 2014 surgery to repair a broken right tibia should not have been an issue. Dr. Kevin Varner, chairman of the Department of Orthopedics at Houston Methodist Hospital, operated on Correa.

Correa, the first overall pick in the 2012 amateur draft and the 2015 AL Rookie of the Year with Houston, has a .279 batting average with 155 homers and 553 RBIs in eight major league seasons. He also has been a stellar postseason performer, with 18 homers and 59 RBIs in 79 games.

The two-time All-Star and 2021 Gold Glove winner raved about his time with Minnesota and how much he and his family enjoyed the community, maintaining all along the Twins were in the mix even with the bigger spenders pursuing him in a particularly lucrative offseason for shortstops. Xander Boegarts, Trea Turner and Dansby Swanson all struck it rich, too.

Minnesota made no secret of a strong desire to offer a contract like no other in the history of the midmarket franchise, with a \$184 million, eight-year deal to extend catcher Joe Mauer in 2010 the previous record for amount and length. Twins players who were close to Correa kept in touch with the native of Puerto Rico, lobbying him to return. □

Lucky loser Amanda Anisimova wins 1st round in Adelaide

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — American Amanda Anisimova made the best of her lucky loser ticket by beating Russian Liudmila Samsonova 7-5, 6-3 on Tuesday in the first round of the Adelaide International to claim her first win in the main draw of a WTA tournament since August.

Anisimova reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon last year and is a former French Open semifinalist, ranked No. 29.

But she had to make her way through qualifying and a lucky loser second chance to reach the second round of the Adelaide

tournament.

The 21-year-old won only three games before losing to fourth-seeded Veronika Kudermetova in the first round at Adelaide last week, meaning she had to qualify for the main draw this week.

On Tuesday She took advantage of Samsonova's shaky serve who had seven double faults she was broken five times to advance to the second round where she will face Beatriz Haddad Maia.

On the men's side, American Tommy Paul beat Australian Christopher O'Connell 6-4, 7-5 in Paul's

first match of the year. Paul reached the quarterfinals of both Adelaide tournaments last year.

"First match of the season is always a little tough and everyone has nerves going into the first match," Paul said. "So I was happy to go out and play the way that I did. I didn't really do too much wrong and I served well."

Barbora Krejickova carried over her strong finish to 2022 by beating last year's finalist Alison Riske-Amritraj 6-2, 7-6 (3). Krejickova won two titles and nine of her last 10 singles matches in 2022. □



Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus gestures as she was posing for a photo after she defeated Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic in the women's final at the Adelaide International tennis tournament in Adelaide, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023.

Associated Press

Analysis: 3-point shooting leads to more NBA scoring binges

By **NOAH TRISTER**
AP Sports Writer

Giannis Antetokounmpo set a career high with 55 points last Tuesday in Milwaukee's victory over Washington and it wasn't even the week's top scoring performance in the NBA's Central Division. That belonged to Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell, with a staggering 71 the previous night.

The NBA these past few weeks has featured an almost nightly display of one-upmanship among the game's greatest scorers. Whether it was Mitchell's extraordinary effort for the Cavaliers or Dallas' Luka Doncic reaching 50 points three times in a nine-day span, everywhere you turn, it seems like another player is putting up a huge total.

"I think there are a lot of layers to it.

You just see night after night, guys are having enormous offensive games," Wizards coach Wes Unseld Jr. said. "It's fun to watch as a fan, of course. Frustrating when you're trying to game plan to stop some of these guys because they're scoring at all levels the paint, the 3s, getting to the line."

Ten different players have already scored 50 points in a game this season: Antetokounmpo, Mitchell, Doncic, Joel Embiid, Devin Booker, Anthony Davis, Klay Thompson, Pascal Siakam, Darius Garland and Stephen Curry.



Cleveland Cavaliers guard Donovan Mitchell (45) shoots against Chicago Bulls center Nikola Vucevic (9) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, in Cleveland. Associated Press

Before 2016-17, no more than eight different players had ever had a 50-point game in one season, according to Sportradar. Since then, at least 10 have done it every season, including a record 14 in 2021-22.

Some of this is to be expected in what has become a very high-scoring era. NBA teams were averaging 113.8 points per game entering Monday night, which if it continues would be the highest mark for the league since 1969-70.

But the overall scoring environment tells only part of the story.

In that 1969-70 season, teams averaged 116.7

points, but only two players had a 50-point game. In 1984-85, the highest-scoring season of the 1980s, teams averaged 110.8 points.

But only five players Bernard King, Larry Bird, Purvis Short, Kevin McHale and Moses Malone produced a 50-point game that season. So what's happening lately is not just higher scoring league-wide. The top players are also producing huge games with remarkable frequency. Expansion may play a role. The number of teams is 30% higher than it was in 1985. More teams means more games, so it makes sense that there are more examples of a player scoring 50.

But the sport has changed in other ways, too.

"Guys come into this league, and the most impressive thing is the skill set the handle and the shooting," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said.

"What's lacking, I think, is the foundation, the institutional knowledge that players used to have when they came into the league after a few years of college. Sometimes the defense isn't great. Transition defense is at an all-time low in this league."

Nowadays, basically every top scorer has some degree of proficiency from 3-point range, whereas back in the '80s, some stars

largely ignored the shot and nobody attempted all that many.

"Guys are taking 15 or 16 3s in some games," Los Angeles Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said. "Teams are encouraging guys to take those shots, and if you take so many shots, and if you get hot and make some, you can score a lot of points."

So current players have a variety of ways they can accumulate points in a hurry, and the 3-point shot affects the game even beyond that. With so many players capable of making open 3s, teams can space the floor in a way that punishes defenses for double teams.

"You have to pick and choose the guys you try and double team and get the ball out of their hands because they are not great passers, but there are some guys who can score, but can also pick you apart with their passing," Lue said. "So, when you have guys like that, you want to let those guys try and get theirs and take everyone else out, but sometimes it can backfire on you as well."

When King scored 60 points on Christmas in 1984, he didn't attempt a single 3. Even this year, Antetokounmpo didn't make any when he scored 55. But Mitchell attempted 15 and made seven in his 71-point game. □



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin looks at the scoreboard after completing an alpine ski, women's World Cup slalom in Flachau, Austria, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023.

Associated Press

Record on hold as Shiffrin finishes 2nd in night slalom

By **ERIC WILLEMSSEN**
Associated Press

FLACHAU, Austria (AP) — American skier Mikaela Shiffrin finished second to Olympic champion Petra Vlhova in a night slalom race Tuesday, meaning she will have to wait for another chance to break the record for most wins on the women's World Cup circuit.

Shiffrin matched Lindsey Vonn's record of 82 race

victories by winning a giant slalom in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, on Sunday, but wasn't able to produce another win in her best discipline, slalom, to move past her former teammate.

Vlhova had the fastest time in the first run and then extended her lead over Shiffrin for her first win this season. The Slovakian skier finished 0.43 seconds ahead of Shiffrin, while Lena Duerr of Germany finished 0.85

back in third.

Shiffrin's next chance to break the record will come in a super-G in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, in 10 days. She plans to sit out speed races in St. Anton this weekend.

Vonn broke the previous record, Annemarie Moser-Pröll's mark of 62 wins, in Cortina eight years ago. Vonn retired four years ago when injuries cut her career short. □